

# Sharing the Road

## Overview



The streets and highways in the United States are used every day by drivers of cars, trucks, buses, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, and bicycles as well as by pedestrians. Our entire system of roadways and traffic control devices only works if people cooperate and share the road responsibly. Imagine the chaos and delay if every driver didn't share! Cooperation and common courtesy is everybody's best means for achieving a safe journey with minimum delay.

# Pedestrians



A lot of people like me are walking more these days, whether for exercise or for commuting. Sometimes, though, it can be a little scary, especially in congested urban areas. Please, be patient and give us the right-of-way in crosswalks. Elderly people and children are among the most vulnerable pedestrians, so be especially careful in areas around schools, retirement communities, and recreation areas. And remember, everyone is a pedestrian at one time or another!

# **Bicycles**



Biking is a great way to get around. My friends and I like to bike a lot on the weekends. While some areas have separate bike lanes or bike paths, many do not. In these cases, by law, bikes have the right to share many roadways with other types of vehicles. When you're driving, you need to be especially cautious and avoid crowding bicyclists like me because sometimes we have to make sudden moves to avoid hazards such as potholes or storm drains.

# Large Vehicles



I've been a professional trucker for years. You can help make my job easier and the roads safer by remembering that trucks, buses, and other large vehicles have larger blind spots than smaller vehicles do. In these blind spots, we can't see your vehicle in any rearview mirror. You should think of these areas as "no zones," and don't linger much beside us when you're passing. Also, because heavy vehicles like mine take longer to stop than passenger cars do, another "no zone" is directly in front of me. Because if you cut in too close, I may not be able to stop in time.

# Future



In the future a dashboard collision avoidance display will alert drivers if another vehicle or obstacle is too close; this will allow the driver to take action before it's too late. Sensors are currently being used on some commercial passenger buses, which, like trucks, have large blind spots. Someday soon this technology will be available in all vehicles. This technology can be particularly helpful when visibility has been reduced due to environmental conditions such as dust or snow.